



Transportation Fact Sheet

Alternative Transportation Program

Access to and within the National Park System has been a defining experience for generations of visitors.

The National Park Service (NPS) coordinates the planning and implementation of transportation systems that improve the visitor experience and care for national parks by:

- Preserving natural and cultural resources.
- Enhancing visitor safety and security.
- Protecting plant and animal species.
- Reducing congestion.
- Decreasing pollution.

NPS is committed to being a leader in pursuing strategies that can help make park units more enjoyable, cleaner, quieter, and more sustainable for present and future generations.

For more information, visit nps.gov/transportation

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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

An increasing number of motor vehicles in national parks threatens the very resources parks were created to protect. Alternative transportation provides an opportunity to care for these natural and cultural resources, mitigate traffic congestion, reduce air and noise pollution, and provide for a quality visitor experience.

What is the Alternative Transportation Program?

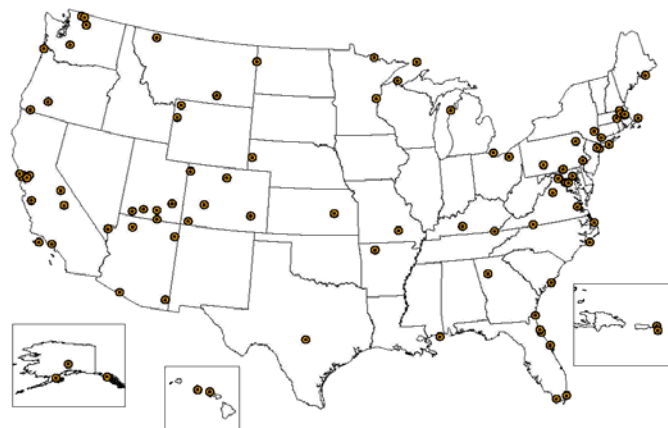
Established in 1997, the Alternative Transportation Program (ATP) is jointly administered by the National Park Service (NPS) and the Federal Highway Administration. The Federal Lands Highway Program provides much of the funding for ATP through its Park Roads and Parkways Program.

What are the benefits of alternative transportation?

Alternative transportation systems integrate all modes of travel within a park, including land and water-based transportation. These systems include alternative-fuel buses (running on fuels like propane, electricity, and natural gas), trolleys, water taxis, canal boats, and aerial tramways. ATS are designed to fit into the natural setting of park and protect park resources, including the natural soundscape and wildlife.

How is alternative transportation funded?

The 2005 Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) authorized the new Alternative Transportation in Parks and Public Lands (ATPPL) program, to be administered through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Eligible agencies include the National Park Service, and in 2006, the first year of the program, 57 percent of funds allocated were for projects serving national parks.



NPS has 110 alternative transportation systems in 81 park units.

Alternative transportation program

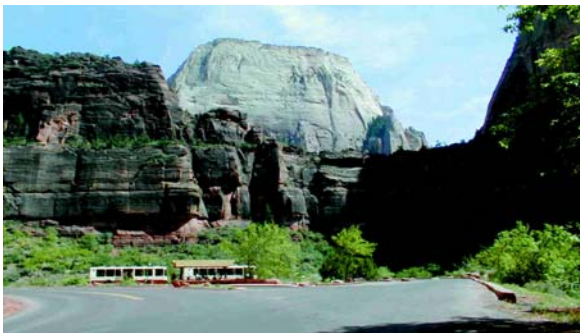
Since its inception. Today, 81 park units all around the country have an alternative transportation system already in place. Whether it's a ferry service to reach remote islands or a shuttle bus system utilized both by park visitors and residents of local gateway communities, alternative transportation is helping to ensure an enjoyable park experience for many generations to come by improving access and protecting the environment. NPS is committed to

Denali National Park in Alaska

In Alaska's Denali National Park, shuttle buses account for 80 percent of passenger trips within the park. Automobiles cannot travel past the Savage River, located 15 miles in. From there, visitors hop on one of the 110 buses that operate throughout the park. The shuttle buses log over 1 million miles per year, compared to just over 700,000 miles annually by private vehicles throughout Denali. NPS tours of natural history and tundra wilderness provide visitors guided access to some of the park's remote locations. Along the way, NPS guides are available to assist in spotting wildlife, and are available to answer questions about the park and its resources.



At Denali, passengers can ride low-sulfur diesel fuel buses as far as 95 miles into the park.



Several locations along the Zion Canyon Scenic Drive, such as this one at Big Bend, are only accessible by shuttle buses from April through October.

Zion National Park in Utah

Nearly 3 million visitors come to Zion National Park each year to enjoy its scenic canyons, sandstone cliffs, creeks, and a variety of wildlife. Zion and the local community of Springdale jointly sponsor a propane-powered shuttle bus system that began in 2000. The system has reduced air and noise pollution, helped the local economy, and improved the visitor experience. 30 propane-powered buses shuttle visitors to Zion Canyon attractions. Thanks to shuttle buses, carbon dioxide emissions are down 46 percent, and it will be approximately 80 years before noise levels in Zion return to pre-shuttle bus levels.

Acadia National Park in Maine

Acadia's Island Explorer shuttle system features eight routes linking hotels, inns, and campgrounds with destinations in the park and neighboring village centers free of charge. The service began in 1999 and transports approximately 200,000 visitors annually on its clean fuel buses. Island Explorer buses have eliminated more than 685,000 automobile trips and prevented 6,444 tons of greenhouse gas emissions.



Island Explorer buses keep as many as 88,000 motor vehicles off park roads during the peak summer months.